

**To:** Barry, Michael[Barry.Michael@epa.gov]  
**From:** Way, Steven  
**Sent:** Tue 10/6/2015 5:27:24 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Notification Only Alert – Possible Turbidity in Animas River due to recent severe weather.

Mike – it rained most of the day onsite, it was raining at 7 PM onsite, and it has been raining heavily since 9 PM in Silverton for about 2 hours. It's very turbid in every drainage that I observed coming out tonight.

Steven Way

Federal On-Scene Coordinator

Emergency Response Unit

US EPA - Region 8

1595 Wynkoop Street

Denver, CO 80202

Office: 303-312-6723

**From:** Barry, Michael  
**Sent:** Monday, October 05, 2015 11:22 PM  
**To:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn  
**Cc:** R8 GKM Leadership Team  
**Subject:** Re: Notification Only Alert – Possible Turbidity in Animas River due to recent severe weather.

Yes we can talk about that. It's consistent with the spirit of the notification plan.

Thank you

Mike Barry

Gold King Response

EPA Incident Commander

9/24-10/8 2015

Cell: 617.680.5466

Durango, Colorado

On Oct 5, 2015, at 6:06 PM, Jenkins, Laura Flynn <[Jenkins.Laura@epa.gov](mailto:Jenkins.Laura@epa.gov)> wrote:

FYI for situational awareness only.

I think we should also consider some pre-emptive notifications on those days in which activities at the mine may impact turbidity. Steve mentioned a couple of upcoming operational activities that may increase turbidity and if we know a day or so ahead of time these activities are taking place we could/should send out a Notification Only Alert as a heads-up. I don't know which specific activities Steve was referencing but Mike or I can reach out to Steve if (a) this seems like a good idea and (b) Dave O doesn't already have this info.

Regards,

Laura Jenkins

Media Officer

USEPA-Region 8

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**From:** Davis, Joe  
**Sent:** Monday, October 05, 2015 6:01 PM  
**To:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn  
**Subject:** FW: Notification Only Alert – Possible Turbidity in Animas River due to recent severe weather.

**From:** Davis, Joe  
**Sent:** Monday, October 05, 2015 6:50 PM  
**To:** 'Larry Rader' <larry.rader@mecx.net>; Kappelman, David <Kappelman.David@epa.gov>; Romero, David <Romero.David@epa.gov>; Fusinski, Keith <fusinski.keith@epa.gov>; Teopaco, Julius <Teopaco.Julius@epa.gov>; Burton, Terry <Burton.Terry@epa.gov>; Barry, Michael <Barry.Michael@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Notification Only Alert – Possible Turbidity in Animas River due to recent severe weather.

**From:** Davis, Joe  
**Sent:** Monday, October 05, 2015 6:36 PM  
**To:** [acabillo@hotmail.com](mailto:acabillo@hotmail.com); 'Alan Bacock ([a.bacock@bigpinepaiute.org](mailto:a.bacock@bigpinepaiute.org))' <[a.bacock@bigpinepaiute.org](mailto:a.bacock@bigpinepaiute.org)>; 'Alexa Sandoval ([alexandra.sandoval@state.nm.us](mailto:alexandra.sandoval@state.nm.us))' <[alexandra.sandoval@state.nm.us](mailto:alexandra.sandoval@state.nm.us)>; 'Allison Majure ([Allison.Majure@state.nm.us](mailto:Allison.Majure@state.nm.us))' <[Allison.Majure@state.nm.us](mailto:Allison.Majure@state.nm.us)>; 'AZ DEQ Duty Officer' <[mwm@azdeq.gov](mailto:mwm@azdeq.gov)>; [beverett@utah.gov](mailto:beverett@utah.gov); Blumenfeld, Jared <[BLUMENFELD.JARED@EPA.GOV](mailto:BLUMENFELD.JARED@EPA.GOV)>; 'Bonnie Hopkins ([bhopkins@nmsu.edu](mailto:bhopkins@nmsu.edu))' <[bhopkins@nmsu.edu](mailto:bhopkins@nmsu.edu)>; Brown, Randy <[Brown03.Randy@epa.gov](mailto:Brown03.Randy@epa.gov)>; 'Bruce Conrad ([sjcsconrad@yahoo.com](mailto:sjcsconrad@yahoo.com))' <[sjcsconrad@yahoo.com](mailto:sjcsconrad@yahoo.com)>; Burton, Terry <[Burton.Terry@epa.gov](mailto:Burton.Terry@epa.gov)>; 'Butch Knowlton ([knowltonbk@co.laplata.co.us](mailto:knowltonbk@co.laplata.co.us))' <[knowltonbk@co.laplata.co.us](mailto:knowltonbk@co.laplata.co.us)>; 'Butch Tongate ([butch.tongate@state.nm.us](mailto:butch.tongate@state.nm.us))' <[butch.tongate@state.nm.us](mailto:butch.tongate@state.nm.us)>; 'Cathy Metz' <[cathy.metz@durangogov.org](mailto:cathy.metz@durangogov.org)>; 'Clifford Banuelos' <[ebcepa@gmail.com](mailto:ebcepa@gmail.com)>; 'Cornelius Antone ([Cornelius.antone@tonation-nsn.gov](mailto:Cornelius.antone@tonation-nsn.gov))' <[Cornelius.antone@tonation-nsn.gov](mailto:Cornelius.antone@tonation-nsn.gov)>; Curry, Ron <[Curry.Ron@epa.gov](mailto:Curry.Ron@epa.gov)>; 'David Burke' <[dburke@firenet.org](mailto:dburke@firenet.org)>; 'David Sypher'

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Denny (Trevor.Denney@state.co.us)' <Trevor.Denney@state.co.us>; 'Walt Baker (egaddis@utah.gov)' <egaddis@utah.gov>; 'Waylon J. Denny (waylon.denny@bia.gov)' <waylon.denny@bia.gov>; 'Wendy Smith-Reeve (wendy.smith-reeve@azdema.gov)' <wendy.smith-reeve@azdema.gov>

**Subject:** Notification Only Alert – Possible Turbidity in Animas River due to recent severe weather.

Notification Only Alert – Possible Turbidity in Animas River due to recent severe weather.

A significant rain event over the past 24 hours (and continuing into this evening) throughout the Animas River valley, may result in additional visible turbidity within the Animas River and adjacent tributary streams. Please note that visible turbidity in the river may fluctuate in relation to regular occurring weather events, and is not associated with operations at the Gold King Mine Site.

Additional relative Animas River information as follows:

...FLASH FLOOD WATCH IN EFFECT THROUGH THIS EVENING, UNTIL MIDNIGHT MDT TONIGHT...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN GRAND JUNCTION HAS ISSUED A

\* FLASH FLOOD WATCH FOR PORTIONS OF COLORADO AND UTAH...

INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING IN COLORADO...ANIMAS ...RIVER BASIN...

FOUR CORNERS/UPPER DOLORES RIVER...NORTHWEST SAN JUAN

MOUNTAINS...PARADOX VALLEY/LOWER DOLORES RIVER...ROAN AND

TAVAPUTS PLATEAUS...SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN...SOUTHWEST SAN JUAN

MOUNTAINS AND UNCOMPAHGRE PLATEAU AND DALLAS DIVIDE. IN UTAH...

ARCHES/GRAND FLAT...CANYONLANDS/NATURAL BRIDGES...LA SAL AND

ABAJO MOUNTAINS...SOUTHEAST UTAH AND TAVAPUTS PLATEAU.

Please visit the following website for additional Weather Information for Durango, CO.

[http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?textField1=37.275&textField2=-107.879#.VhMB0\\_1Vikp](http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?textField1=37.275&textField2=-107.879#.VhMB0_1Vikp)

Please visit the following website for Animas river level (and forecast) Information in Durango..

<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=gjt&gage=drgc2>

Please visit the following website for Animas river flow rate information in Durango..

[http://waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/uv?cb\\_00060=on&cb\\_00065=on&format=gif\\_stats&site\\_no=09361500&p09-28&end\\_date=2015-10-05](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/uv?cb_00060=on&cb_00065=on&format=gif_stats&site_no=09361500&p09-28&end_date=2015-10-05)

Joe Davis,

Temporary:

Deputy Incident Commander, Durango, ICP

Permanent:

Federal On-Scene Coordinator

Hazmat/Oil/Disaster Response

USEPA Region 7

8600 Underground Rd., Pillar 253

Kansas City, Missouri 64161

(913) 551-7909

To report oil and chemical spills call the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802